

CLAIMS

1. A handrail assembly comprising:

a handrail having a generally wavy shape, said handrail comprising an alternating combination of generally upwardly curved sections and generally downwardly curved sections; and

means for mounting said handrail relative to a structure so that it is readily engaged by the hand of a user.

2. The handrail assembly as defined in claim 1 wherein said handrail further comprises a plurality of generally straight sections each interposed between two adjacent, generally upwardly and downwardly curved sections, the axes of two adjacent ones of said generally straight sections intersecting with each other at an obtuse angle.

3. The handrail assembly as defined in claim 1 wherein said handrail comprises at least one straight section disposed near one end thereof.

4. A handrail assembly adapted for use with a stairway, comprising:

a handrail having a generally wavy shape; and

means for mounting said handrail obliquely along a stairway to provide an alternating combination of generally horizontally disposed portions and generally vertically disposed portions, said generally vertically disposed portions being adapted to be grasped by a user without bending his or her wrist forwardly in ascending a flight of stairs, said generally horizontally disposed portions being adapted to be grasped by the user without bending his or her wrist forwardly in descending the flight of stairs.

5. The handrail assembly as defined in claim 4 wherein said handrail is mounted relative to the stairway so that each of the generally horizontally and vertically disposed portions is disposed generally above a step and a riser of the stairway, respectively.

6. The handrail assembly as defined in claim 4 wherein said generally horizontally disposed portions of the handrail have a width greater than said generally vertically disposed portions so that the user can grasp and lean on said generally horizontally disposed portions for support in descending the flight of stairs.

7. The handrail assembly as defined in claim 4 or 5 wherein

said handrail includes an anti-slip means provided thereon.

8. The handrail assembly as defined in claim 6 wherein said anti-slip means comprises a plurality of grooves extending longitudinally of the handrail.

9. The handrail assembly as defined in claim 4 wherein said handrail includes indicia thereon for aiding a visually handicapped person in moving up and down the stairway, said indicia being in the Braille system, including characters to be felt and distinguished by human fingers.

10. A handrail assembly adapted for use in a mass transit system, comprising:

a handrail having a generally wavy shape; said handrail comprising an alternating combination of generally upwardly and downwardly curved sections;

means for rigidly mounting said handrail generally horizontally below a ceiling of a car of a mass transit system;

a plurality of flexible straps depending from said handrail; and

a plurality of grip rings movably connected to the lower ends of said plurality of flexible straps, said handrail and said grip rings being adapted to be

grasped by passengers in keeping a standing position in a moving mass transit system.

11. The handrail system as defined in claim 9 wherein said plurality of flexible straps are of equal length and have their upper ends secured to said handrail at said upwardly and downwardly curved sections thereof to provide said grip rings at two different levels.

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